

# Road Guards, Post!

By Staff Writer

**W**ith a deployment to Iraq coming soon, it was decided that the unit would practice night-convoy operations. The date, time and route all had been arranged. The vehicles were ready to go. The commander's intent for the night was to have the Marines become accustomed to driving with blackout lights and night-vision goggles (NVGs). The training was to provide practice driving with NVGs, while maintaining dispersion and intervals and maneuvering around obstacles.

The plan for the night was that all drivers and A-drivers would wear NVGs and drive with blackout lights through the pre-planned route. The written instruction for the training evolution required road guards and signs stating "NVG Driving" to be posted at intersections

along the route. No vehicles would cross or operate on the paved roads with blackout lights.

The driving route would take the convoy on a dirt-road training area and across a rural highway at two points. The distance between the crossings was a little more than a quarter of a mile away. Two road guards would be placed at each crossing to ensure the convoy would have safe passage across the 55-mph highway. The road guards were instructed to stop the convoy, ensure that the highway was clear, and direct the convoy when it was safe to cross the intersection. The drivers were briefed to pay attention to the directions of these